Legislation on banning the Smoking Advertisement

1525. SHRI J. P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that nearly 8 million Indians die pre-maturely every year from cancer due to use of tobacco;

(b) whether Government propose to bring forward a legislation banning cigarette advertisements and smoking in public places to combat the national scourage of 'tobacco epidemic'; and

(c) if so, what are the views of the Government in this regard and what are the hurdles in the way of enacting an effective legislation in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) It is estimated that between 6 to 10 lakh deaths in India are caused due to tobacco consumption in various forms including deaths due to tobacco-related cancers, cardio-vascular diseases, chronic obstructive lung diseases etc.

(b) and (c) The existing legislation namely "The cigarettes (Regulation of Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 1975 provides for incorporating a specified warning on cigarette packets/ cartons and in cigarette advertisements. Since regulation of other tobacco products such as bidis, cigars etc., falls within the purview of State Governments they have been urged to get a resolution passed in the State legislatures for adoption of a package of an anti-tobacco measures to enable the Parliament to enact a legislation.

Disappointing Services of Air India

1526. SHRI J. P. GOYAL:
SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Air India has lodged protest against the findings of the International Foundation of Airline Passengers Association that it is one of the ten most disappointing airlines in the world;

(b) if so, when;

(c) whether the International Foundation of Airline Passengers Association has agreed to review its findings and made amends; and

(d) if so, on what conditions?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI MOTI LAL VORA): (a) to (d) In a recent survey conducted by the International Foundation of Airlines Passengers Association in Geneva, Air-India had been listed among the World's ten most disappointing airlines. This report was first published by the New York Times and also appeared in some Indian newspapers.

In an effort to ascertain the parameters under which the survey was undertaken, Air India took up this matter with Mr. Geoffrey Lipman, Executive Director of the International Foundation of Airlines Passengers Association in Geneva in November-December, 1987. The Executive Director has categorically stated that reference to Air India was incorrect.

Inquiry Committee on Central Government Hospitals in Delhi

1527. SHRI J. P. GOYAL:
SHRI RASHEED MASOOD:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has since received the report of the inquiry committee regarding Central Government hospitals in the Capital;

(b) if so, what suggestions and recommendations have been made thereon; and

(c) what steps have been taken by the Government to implement the said suggestions and recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) to (c) The Report has highlighted the lack of correct demand forecasting by the user Departments, improper scrutiny of indents by the Administration, lack of trained manpower in the purchase and Store Department, lack of planning regarding accessories, spares, reagents etc., lack of preplanning regarding supportive infrastructure, and rudimentary facilities for repairs of equipment, and has recommended formulation of a proper Purchase Requisition Proforma, Constitution of a Purchase Committee, simultaneous action regarding procurement of accessories, spares and repairs, and Inter Hospital Coordination. These will be implemented to the extent possible within the resources available.

DTC Bus Service between Ajmeri Gate and Gurgaon

1528. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to refer to Unstarred Question 2672 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 2nd December, 1987 and state:

(a) whether Government propose to restart DTC Bus service between Gurgaon and Ajmeri Gate/Central Secretariat after 7.00 P.M.;

(b) if so, by when; and if not the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government propose to increase the services on this route?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) and (b) Operation of DTC buses on certain inter-state routes were restricted upto 19.00 hrs. as per directives of Delhi Administration. Keeping in view the traffic demand and other operational factors, the DTC have in consultation with Delhi Administration restored the operations of its services on these routes including this one from 19.00 hours to 20.00 hrs.

(c) The DTC have introduced w.e.f. 2-11-1987 a new route from Shivaji Stadium to Sohana via Central Secretariat and Gurgaon with 5 buses. There is no proposal to add any more services at present.

Development of Guntakal Railway Junction

1529. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal under Government's consideration for development of Guntakal Railway Junction in South Central Railway as a model Railway Station, in view of its being a very important railway junction connecting several important cities in the country; and

(b) whether there is also a proposal for constructing one more overbridge connecting different platforms in Guntakal Railway Junction to facilitate the passengers to reach the platforms easily?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

Technology Mission on Family Planning

1530. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to set up a Technology Mission along with other five technology Missions; and

(b) if so, what allocations have been made for the purpose?